



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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State Certifies Port of Oakland's EZBH Site

The California Department of Toxic Substances control (DTSC) today announced completion (certification) of the hazardous substances cleanup at the site of a former radio beacon station located on the north end of Oakland International Airport. The site received an "unrestricted use" certification, the Department's most conservative standard, and will be re-developed as local wetlands restoration project.

"The successful restoration of this property is consistent with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Environmental Action Plan to support the successful collaborative wetland restoration efforts. By working with the Port of Oakland, this site will soon become a haven for local and migrating wildlife," said Acting DTSC Director, Leonard Robinson.

The EZBH site, owned by the Port of Oakland, is approximately 11 acres and is partly surrounded by a levee. The interior of the site consists of wetlands and upland areas, and is bordered on the north by Fan Marsh, on the west by Old Earhart Road, on the east by Doolittle Drive, and on the south by undeveloped property also owned by the Port of Oakland. The site was underwater until it was drained and used by the U.S. Department of Commerce to operate a radio beacon station from 1936 to 1989.

In 2002, DTSC and the Port of Oakland entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement to remediate the site. Cleanup activities implemented in September and October 2005 included the excavation of approximately 3,560 tons of lead-contaminated soil (175 truck loads) that was disposed offsite at a permitted facility.

In 1999, the Port of Oakland began evaluating the quality of the levee soil fill and sediments in the Site interior. These investigations discovered elevated lead levels in the top two- to three-feet of the levee in soil fill material that was imported onsite to raise the existing levee in 1981.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.